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OPS. SCHOOL

At the beginning of 1953 the basic courses for DD/P included a three week Basic Intelligence Course at headquarters which identified covert activities, a five week Operations Course (Phase II) given at

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which taught the skills and techniques which are considered common to all clandestine activity, and a three week Covert Activities given at headquarters in 1953 and at thereafter (Phase III) course /which presented the CS structure and procedures, a two week Administrative Course designed for DD/P clerical personnel, and a three week Refresher Course designed for returning overseas personnel.

25X1A2d1

In early 1954 the IG found "little criticism and much commendation to be offered on the content and presentation of the above courses."

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He regarded the move of Phase II to "one of the greatest advancements made in Training" and he found the morale of the student there body at the most favorable level "to assimilate the maximum amount of instruction."

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OTR

1/ Survey of the Office of Training, August 1953, Part II, Activities, Training (Special), Tabs A and B, in Records Center Job 56-403.

1/ Memorandum for DCI from IG, Subject: Survey of the Office of Training, 20 April 1954, Secret, p. 12, in OTR files

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25X1A2d1

With its establishment in December 1954, the Operations School assumed control over all types of Clandestine Operations training both at headquarters and at ~~the~~ [REDACTED]. A significant accomplishment in the following year was the combining of the former Clandestine Methods and Techniques and Clandestine Operations Courses into one integrated Operations Course of sixteen weeks duration [REDACTED].

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25X1A

[REDACTED] This required a complete revision of the former courses and the addition of new material and simulated problems. The first Operations course designed to provide the trainee with the proficiency to handle agents, manage clandestine organizations and administer operational projects was conducted between January and May, 1956.^{1/}

^{1/} CIA, Estimate of Requirements Fiscal Year 1958, Bureau of the Budget Presentation, 30 September 1956, SECRET, D-10-25, in Records Center *Job 59-417*.

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The advanced or specialized courses furnished basic or introductory training in specialized fields of clandestine activity.

In 1953 OTR gave at headquarters courses ~~xxxxl~~ of two or three weeks duration each on Clandestine ~~xxxx~~ Counter-

25X1A

espionage, Communist Party Operations, Staybehind Operations, Operational Security, and Order of Battle. At ~~xxxx~~ OTR

25X1A

gave courses ~~xx~~ varying from two to four weeks in duration on

25X1A

Clandestine Fieldcraft Activities, Evasion and Escape, ~~xxxx~~

25X1A

Operations, ~~xxxx~~ and Air Operations. ^{1/}

In 1953 there ~~xxx~~

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ were 465 students in the headquarters specialized

25X1A

courses and ~~xxxx~~ courses.



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In connection with the specialized courses, OTR encountered a number of troublesome problems. In last analysis, the success of a specialized course depended upon the ~~willingness~~ willingness of the operating units to release experienced operators to serve as instructors, ~~and the willingness of supervisors~~ to spare those who needed instruction, and ~~was~~ to furnish doctrinal and case materials on which the course could be based. In some cases a lack of students made it necessary to cancel courses on which much time and effort had been spent. In other cases a lack of experienced instructors for much demanded courses created backlogs. In practically all cases, there was a continuous struggle/ ^{to get} operating offices to release the information on which ~~a~~ course^s could be built.

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Covert

Audio
c to Active Services Seminar
Orientation and Action

1/

2/

Action-Orgs Timeline

7

1/ 5th Anniversary, Office of Training, March, 1955, SECRET, Schools of OTR; OTR Weekly Summary Reports, SECRET; CIA, Estimate of Requirements Fiscal Year 1958, Bureau of the Budget Presentation, SECRET, in Records Center 100-59-417

in 1954
Following a frantic last-minute scramble/for qualified
personnel which characterized the latter stages of PBSUCCESS,
in 1955
OTR and CS collaborated in a proposal/to establish at [REDACTED] 25X1A2d1
an Actions Operations Unit which would provide a cadre of personnel
skilled^{1/} in all action aspects of CS emergency operations. OTR's
paper proposed the transfer of 30 slots from DD/P to OTR which,
joined with 20 instructor slots already on the [REDACTED] T/O, 25X1A2d1
would make possible a 50-man unit to be trained in all aspects
of action operations and then be available for action anywhere
in the world. The proposal was not implemented during 1955 and
1956 due to ceiling limitations. OTR's Action Cross Training
described above
program/was a step in the direction of such a unit but during the
period ~~xx~~ OTR did not get the extra slots it sought for the ~~xxxxx~~
proposal.

^{1/} Memorandum for A/DCI, from DTR, 14 April 1955, Weekly Summary
Report, Secret, in O/DCI/ER, 1955 Training file.

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During the four year period there was a steady decline in the total number of students taking courses that in 1954 and later years were ~~excluded~~ placed in the Operations School. During the calendar year 1953 there were nearly 2500 full-time students in these courses and during the calendar year 1956 there were only 900 both full-time and part-time. ^{1/2} Only a small fraction of the students taking these courses were parttime students. A number of explanations may be offered for this decline in the number of students taking operational courses. The number entering on duty in 1953 was ³¹⁰ greater than in 1956. ^{2/} The combination of two courses into a and longer ~~xxxxxxx~~ new/Operations Course ~~xxxxxxx~~ made recruitment of students more difficult. A larger proportion of the employees had working with the Clandestine Services had/operational training in 1956 than in 1953.

1/ The figures for 1953 were taken from Memorandum for DCI from IG, dated 20 April 1954, Survey of the Office of Training, SECRET, in OTR files and the figures for 1956 were furnished by OTR to Historical Staff. Only total number of students was given for CY 1956 but for CY 1954 and CY 1955 over 95 per cent of students were full-time.

2/ Table 5.

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